

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 263859

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 MC-02 /049 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/AND/E - MR. ALLITTO:LEE

APPROVED BY ARA/AND/E - MR. ALLITTO

DOD/ISA/IA - CAPTAIN MAY

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R 262030Z OCT 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY QUITO

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

AMEMBASSY LIMA

USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

S E C R E T STATE 263859

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, EC

SUBJECT: VISIT TO PENTAGON OF ECUADOREAN AMBASSADOR TO US

REF: STATE 257643

1. (U) AT THE REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, GENERAL CAVAZOS, DIRECTOR, INTER-AMERICAN REGION (OSD/ISA) MET WITH THE ECUADOREAN AMBASSADOR TO THE US, JOSE C. CARDENAS AND THE ECUADOREAN MILITARY ATTACHE, COLONEL LEVOYER, ON 19 OCTOBER 1976. ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WERE MR. QUANT, CAPTAIN MAY AND COLONEL THOMAS FROM INTER-AMERICAN REGION AND MR. THIEBERGER FROM DSAA.

2. (C) AMBASSADOR CARDENAS STATED HE HAD REQUESTED THIS MEETING AT THE REQUEST OF HIS GOVERNMENT. THE PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT WAS TO REVIEW THE STATUS OF OUTSTANDING REQUESTS OBLIGATED AGAINST ECUADOR'S FY 76 CREDITS, TO INQUIRE INTO THE STATUS OF THE FY 77 CREDIT AGREEMENT AND TO SEEK INFOR-
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 263859

MATION ON PROBABLE LEVELS OF FY 78 AND 79 FMS CREDIT AUTHO-

RIZATIONS. HE CAME EQUIPPED WITH A LIST OF DESIRED EQUIPMENT TO UPGRADE THE ECUADOREAN ARMY, AND SPECIFICALLY STATED HIS COUNTRY DESIRED TO PURCHASE 105 AND 155 MM ARTILLERY AND ASSOCIATED AMMUNITION; COMBAT ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT INCLUDING WATER PURIFICATION KITS, DEMOLITION CHARGES AND

PORTABLE BRIDGES; AND ANTI-TANK WEAPONS. IN ADDITION, HE INQUIRED INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF PURCHASING EXCESS DEFENSE ARTICLES.

3. (C) WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE HOWITZERS AND ASSOCIATED AMMUNITION, THE EQUIPMENT THE AMBASSADOR WANTED WAS INCLUDED FOR THE MOST PART IN A REQUEST SUBMITTED BY USMLO ECUADOR TO DSAA IN AUGUST 1976 (USMLO QUITO 261330Z AUGUST 76). ON 20 OCTOBER THE ARMY (DARCOM 201933Z OCTOBER 76) PROVIDED PARTIAL PLANNING AND BUDGETING DATA TO USMLO ECUADOR ON THAT REQUEST WHICH AMOUNTS TO AN ESTIMATED 6.3 MILLION PLUS ACCESSORIAL COSTS. GENERAL CAVAZOS EXPLAINED THAT THE PROPER CHANNEL FOR ADDITIONAL REQUESTS WOULD BE VIA DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

4. (C) AMBASSADOR CARDENAS WAS WELL PREPARED FOR THIS VISIT AND DEMONSTRATED A THOROUGH UNDERSTANDING OF FMS PROCEDURES. HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE HE PLACES ON ENSURING THAT HIS COUNTRY HAD PROPERLY DOCUMENTED AND JUSTIFIED REQUESTS SUBMITTED TO THE USG FOR THE FULL AMOUNT OF ECUADOR'S APPROVED CREDIT LEVELS. HE STATED THAT WE SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT ANY REQUESTS WHICH EXCEEDED CURRENT OR PROJECTED APPROVED CREDIT LEVELS WOULD BE PAID FOR BY CASH.

5. (S) THE STRONG IMPLICATION IN ALL THAT AMBASSADOR CARDENAS SAID WAS THAT HIS COUNTRY WAS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED OVER THE PERUVIAN ARMS BUILDUP. HE STATED THAT ECUADOR "COULD NOT MOVE FROM THIS CONTINENT", AND THAT HE KNEW THAT THE USG UNDERSTOOD THAT THE PURCHASE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT WAS NOT "TO GO TO WAR WITH THE US". WHAT HE MERELY WANTED WAS "SUPPORT TO MODERNIZE THE EQUIPMENT OF A SMALL ARMED FORCES IN A REASONABLE MANNER". HE MENTIONED THAT HE WAS AWARE OF THE DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED BETWEEN THE GOE AND THE USG OVER THE TUNA BOAT SEIZURES AND ECUADOR'S

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 263859

OPEC MEMBERSHIP, BUT DID NOT THINK THAT EITHER SHOULD BE AN OBSTACLE IN THE FUTURE. HE WAS FULLY COGNIZANT OF AND AGREED WITH THE BASIC REQUIREMENT OF ANY COUNTRY TO FIRST FEED ITS PEOPLE. HE STATED "THE DANGER TO ANY GOVERNMENT IS HUNGRY PEOPLE; NOT MARXISM".

6. (C) GENERAL CAVAZOS EXPLAINED IN DETAIL THE POLICY GUIDELINES CONCERNING THE USE OF FMS CREDITS INCLUDED IN

REFTEL. THE AMBASSADOR TOOK EXTENSIVE NOTES THROUGHOUT THE MEETING AND PROMISED CLOSE LIAISON IN THE FUTURE TO ENSURE THAT EVERY DOLLAR ALLOCATED FOR ECUADOR WAS PROPERLY UTILIZED.

7. (S) AMBASSADOR CARDENAS' PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT AND

CONCERN REFLECTED HIS OPENING REMARKS THAT HE WAS ACTING AT THE EXPLICIT DIRECTION OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S LEADERS, AND THE GOE DETERMINATION THAT IT WAS URGENT TO ESTABLISH A LONG RANGE SYSTEMATIC UPGRADING OF ITS ARMED FORCES IN VIEW OF THE PERUVIAN SITUATION.

8. (U) NEW SUBJECT. IN VIEW OF THE REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED IN REFTEL TO JUSTIFY EXCEPTIONS TO POLICY CONCERNING THE USE OF FMS CREDITS, WE REQUEST YOUR JUSTIFICATION FOR FINANCING WITH FMS CREDITS ALL REQUESTS INCLUDED IN USMLO QUITO 261330Z AUGUST 76. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, MILITARY EQUIPMENT, CREDIT GUARANTEES, CREDIT PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: powellba
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE263859
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MR. ALLITTO:LEE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760400-0590
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761017/aaaaanxz.tel
Line Count: 133
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 257643
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: powellba
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUL 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <29 OCT 2004 by powellba>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT TO PENTAGON OF ECUADOREAN AMBASSADOR TO US
TAGS: MASS, EC, US, (CARDENAS, JOSE C)
To: QUITO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006